I Claim:

1. A ticket counter comprising:

a transport mechanism for transporting tickets from an inlet, past a sensor, said transport mechanism maintaining contact with the tickets while exposing an outer edge of the tickets;

a sensor adjacent the transport mechanism and positioned to read the exposed outer edge of said ticket while said ticket is being transported by the transport mechanism, the sensor determining a quantity of tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor and generating a signal corresponding to said quantity;

a computer in communication with said sensors for receiving said signal from the sensor; and

a printer connected to said computer for printing the quantity of tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.

2. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports tickets of paper.

3. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports tickets of varying widths and lengths.

4. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a display screen connected to the computer.

5. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays animation while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism.

6. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays a quiz while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism, said ticket counter further comprising input means to allow a user to respond to the quiz displayed by the display screen.

7. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays advertisement.

8. The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays a game of dexterity while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism, said ticket counter further comprising input means to allow a user to participate in the game of dexterity.

9. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the computer records information encoded on the tickets.

10. The ticket counter of claim 9 wherein the information encoded on the tickets includes the distributor of the tickets.

11. The ticket counter of claim 9 wherein the information encoded on the tickets includes a time that the tickets were distributed.

12. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein said transport mechanism comprises a pair of opposed endless belts rotating in opposite directions at a common speed to carry the tickets therebetween, at least one of the pair of endless belts having a width less than the width of the tickets to enable the sensor to read the outer edge of the tickets.

13. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a ticket shredding mechanism for destroying the tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.

14. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor detects light passing through the tickets.

15. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor interprets bar codes imprinted on the tickets.

16. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor is positioned to interpret bar codes imprinted on the outer edge of the tickets.

17. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is adapted to interpret bar codes imprinted with translucent ink.

18. The ticket counter of claim 17 wherein the translucent ink comprises a fluorescent ink.

19. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor positioned at a second outer edge of the tickets to read an opposite exposed outer edge of the tickets while said tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism.

20. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is adapted to recognize counting markers imprinted on the ticket and determine a quantity of tickets passing by the sensor by the number of recognized counting markers on the tickets.

21. The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers correspond to a geometric shape spanning two adjacent tickets and bisected by perforations separating the two adjacent tickets.

22. The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers are imprinted with an opaque ink.

23. The ticket counter of claim 20, wherein the counting markers occur on a common edge of the tickets with a bar code imprinted on the tickets.

24. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising an optical sensor for actuating the transport mechanism upon detection of a ticket at the inlet.

25. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor to read an opposite side of the tickets while the tickets are transported by the transport mechanism.

26. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising user input means for terminating the ticket counting process and initiating a receipt print operation.

27. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising data transmitting means for transmitting data recorded by the computer to a remote computer.